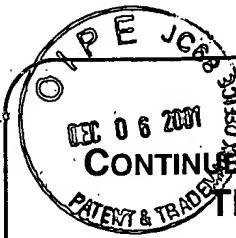


12-10-01

HDP/SB/30 based on PTO/SB/30 (08-00)



**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Application Number | 09/461,265 |
| Filing Date | 12/15/1999 |
| Examiner Name | C. Goodman |
| First Named Inventor | Mason |
| Group Art Unit | 3724 |
| Attorney Docket Number | CS1061#SP |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

| |
|---|
| 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 |
| a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Previously submitted |
| i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on <u>9/28/2001</u> (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered). |
| ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____ |
| iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| b. Enclosed |
| i. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply |
| ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) |
| iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) |
| iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| 2. Miscellaneous |
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) |
| b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Petition for Extension of Time, return receipt postcard |
| 3. Fees |
| The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed. |
| a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees to Deposit Account No. <u>02-2548</u> : |
| i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e): <u>\$740.00</u> |
| ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 month extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17): <u>\$110.00</u> |
| iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| iv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Authorization to charge any deficiency for a fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>02-2548</u> . A duplicate copy of this transmittal is attached. |
| b. <input type="checkbox"/> Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed for the above indicated fees |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card for the above indicated fees (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Name (Print /Type) | Michael Malinak | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 43,770 |
| Signature | | Date | December <u>6</u> , 2001 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Name (Print /Type) | Michael Malinak |
| Signature | |
| Date | December <u>6</u> , 2001 |

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01 FC:179
02 FF:17740.00 CH
110.00 CH